



Franklin County Board of Health

2003 Annual Report





From the Health Commissioner

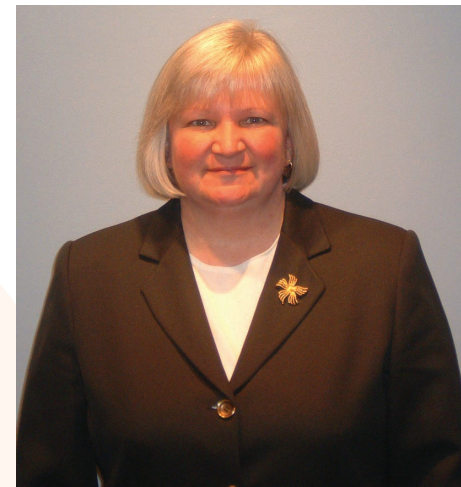
On behalf of the Franklin County Board of Health, its 5 Board Members and 57 employees, I am proud to present our 2003 Annual Report. This brief overview of our programs, and our highlights and accomplishments gives you a synopsis of how public health touches the lives of nearly every resident, every day.

As a local public health agency, we are finding ourselves with increasing responsibility to prepare for and respond to emerging, potential, natural and man-made threats to the health and wellness of the communities we serve. In particular, we must be prepared to provide front line defense and first response as threats of bioterrorism have caused our nation to elevate its alertness to the potential risk of terrorist attacks.

When you read that the Health Department is involved in local emergency planning, West Nile Virus, bioterrorism and smallpox preparedness, SARS, rabies prevention, immunizations, food borne outbreak responses, water testing, flu prevention, as well as our normal licensing and inspection programs, stop and think for a moment about all of the behind-the-scenes work, collaboration, networking, planning, communication, evaluation and enforcement decisions which go into each program to protect the residents of Franklin County.

We invite you to read over this report and learn more about how our department works in your community and with your community.

Susan A. Tilgner, MS, RS, LD, RS
Health Commissioner



Building Upon Public Health

In 2003, the Franklin County Board of Health continued to build and solidify our preparedness efforts. For the second year, the Ohio Department of Health granted federal funds to local health departments in the State to enable them to continue to develop effective plans and resources at a local and regional level to address bioterrorism, outbreaks of infectious disease and other public health threats and emergencies. Our department received \$186,994 of those federal funds in 2003. With these dollars we further developed our capacity to rapidly identify diseases and initiate prevention and control activities; and to strengthen our public health workforce to respond to threats.

In addition, our department also received \$100,954 from the Ohio Department of Health to lead the 15 county central region with planning and preparedness efforts.

Smallpox Vaccination Program

It was a challenging year with a strong focus on emergency preparedness and planning. The year started with our department leading the Central Region through the smallpox vaccination program. The program began mid-February and focused on vaccinating hospital and public health teams. Our department worked closely with 14 counties, 19 health departments and 25 hospitals in the region to accomplish this program. The Central Region vaccinated 510 public health and hospital staff members. In total, Ohio vaccinated 1,921 people and has the 4th highest number of people vaccinated for smallpox behind Florida, Texas and Tennessee. The current smallpox plan is to maintain public health and hospital teams and focus on preparation and training for post-event vaccination. This entails working closely with our area first responders to assure they are trained and ready to be vaccinated should an actual case of smallpox be diagnosed. Other preparation and planning activities include training on how to evaluate suspected cases of smallpox, how to conduct surveillance and containment to control smallpox cases, and how to expand vaccinations to the entire population if necessary.



Tobacco-Free Collaborative

The Franklin County Board of Health is serving as the lead agency for the Tobacco-Free Collaborative (TFC) and received a 2003 grant from the Columbus Medical Association Foundation to conduct a collaborative planning process to set priorities. The TFC hired a facilitator and successfully completed the American Cancer Society's "Communities of Excellence in Tobacco Control" model. The TFC expanded its membership to over 35 members and organizations including small and large agencies, community members and elected officials. As a result of the "Communities of Excellence" process, all participating members voted on which tobacco priorities the TFC would focus on and then divided into two workgroups to set goals and establish action plans with timelines for establishing those goals. The workgroups are: Eliminate secondhand smoke exposure; and preventing youth initiation of smoking.



Franklin County District Advisory Council

The Franklin County District Advisory Council appoints the members of the Board of Health. The District Advisory Council is made up of the Chairman of each group of Township Trustees, the Mayor of each Village, and the President of the Board of County Commissioners.

The makeup and creation of the Council was determined by the State Legislature in 1919. As required by state statute, the District Advisory Council must meet annually in March with the Health Commissioner for the purpose of appointing its officers (Chairman and Secretary) and a member to the Board of Health.

The 2003 annual meeting was held on March 26, 2003 followed by an Executive Committee Meeting on April 3, 2003. The District Advisory Council elected Gary Dever, Brown Township Trustee, as Chairman and Keith Goldhardt, Pleasant Township Trustee, as Secretary. Jack Bope was re-appointed to serve on the Board of Health for a five-year term.



Areas Served by the Franklin County Board of Health

CITIES

Bexley	Grandview Heights	Reynoldsburg	Whitehall
Dublin	Grove City	Upper Arlington	
Gahanna	Hilliard	Westerville	

TOWNSHIPS

Blendon	Hamilton	Mifflin	Pleasant	Washington
Brown	Jackson	Norwich	Prairie	
Clinton	Jefferson	Perry	Sharon	
Franklin	Madison	Plain	Truro	

VILLAGES

Brice	Harrisburg	Minerva Park	Obetz	Valleyview
Canal Winchester	Lockbourne	New Albany	Riverlea	
Groveport	Marble Cliff	New Rome	Urbancrest	



Health District Licensing Council

The Health District Licensing Council was created by State Law in 2002. Members are appointed by the Franklin County District Advisory Council and one member holds a seat on the Franklin County Board of Health.

The Health District Licensing Council consists of one representative of each business activity for which the Board of Health operates a licensing program. Of those five members appointed, Dana L. McDaniel was appointed to the Board of Health. The Health District Licensing Council meets quarterly and serves in an advisory capacity to the Board of Health.

2003 Members of the Health District Licensing Council:

Earl Butcher, The Columbus Medical Electrology & Skin Care Institute
Representing the Tattoo & Body Piercing Licensing Category
Appointed in 2002 to a five-year term

Michael Long, Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio
Representing the Sanitary Landfill or Transfer Station Category
Appointed in 2002 to a four-year term - Serves as Chairman

Dana McDaniel, City of Dublin
Representing the Swimming Pools, Spas, Whirlpools and Hot Tubs Category
Appointed in 2002 to a five-year term - Serves on the Board of Health

John Weideman, Amore Pizza
Representing the Food Establishment Category
Appointed in 2003 to a four-year term - Serves as Secretary

Hubert Seifert, Spagio Restaurant
Representing the Food Service Operations Category
Appointed in 2002 to a five-year term - Serves as Alternate Board of Health Member

During 2003 there were vacancies in the following licensing categories:

Construction & Demolition Landfills
Manufactured Home Parks
R.V. Parks or Campgrounds

2003 Annual Report



The Franklin County Board of Health at 280 E. Broad Street in downtown Columbus is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

Did You Know?



Board Members



Jack R. Bope, Jr., resides in the City of Westerville; is past president of Central Ohio Gasoline Dealers Association; a former Advisory Board Member for Columbus State Community College; is self-employed; and has served on the Board of Health since 1987. **Term expires in 2008.**



Dana L. McDaniel, resides in Washington Township; is the Deputy City Manager and Service Director for the City of Dublin; is a member of the Franklin County Health District Licensing Council and the Ohio City Managers Association; and has served on the Board of Health since 2002. **Term expires in 2007.**



Annemarie Sommer, M.D., President, resides in the City of Dublin; is a Pediatrician and Clinical Geneticist for Children's Hospital; is a Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics at The Ohio State University and has served on the Board of Health since 1985. **Term expires in 2006.**



Robert S. Steele, resides in Jackson Township; retired General Manager and President of Scioto Downs, Inc.; is a member of Franklin County Fraternal Order of Deputies Association; and has served on the Board of Health since 1970. **Term expires in 2004.**



Joseph P. Weaver, resides in Gahanna; is employed by MASI Laboratories; formerly worked for the Franklin County Board of Health for 27 years and retired as Director of Environmental Health Services; and has served on the Board since November 2003. **Term expires in 2005.**

In Memory



R.C. Smith, B.S., D.V.M., M.P.H.,

In September, Dr. R.C. Smith, who had served as a Board Member on the Franklin County Board of Health since 1976, passed away. Dr. Smith was an asset to the department and made immeasurable contributions during his 27 years of service.

He was a resident of Perry Township and was a retiree from private veterinary practice. Among many other accomplishments in his life and career, Dr. Smith enjoyed being a Shriner clown, was a past president of the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association and a past president of the Columbus Academy of Veterinary Medicine.



Nursing Services Division

Program Highlights

ADULT IMMUNIZATION COALITION OF CENTRAL OHIO

The Franklin County Board of Health continues to be a proud partner of the Adult Immunization Coalition of Central Ohio. The Coalition consists of area health departments, hospitals, public and private health care providers, and professional organizations.

During 2003, the primary focus of the Coalition was to assure that area residents were protected against the flu. Together the group coordinated the amount of influenza vaccine ordered for the community, and coordinated and promoted all area flu vaccination clinics.

Thanks to funding received by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, a marketing campaign was created to raise awareness about the importance of getting vaccinated against the flu. The **vaccine4me** website was created and a flu hotline was also maintained which provided daily information about clinic hours and locations, and more importantly flu vaccine availability, which was running in short supply by mid-December.

Coalition members were proud to be able to offer flu vaccinations at no cost to the under and uninsured thanks to funding from the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, Franklin County Office on Aging and the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation.



**Protect yourself.
Protect your loved ones.**

Get Your Flu Vaccine!



BIOTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS EFFORTS

The Nursing Division spent a significant portion of 2003 on emergency planning and preparedness efforts. As you read in the front portion of this report, the smallpox vaccination program was a priority for our department this year. While the smallpox vaccination clinic planning was handled regionally, we are proud to report that all hospitals in Franklin County participated in the program and each have a team of staff vaccinated against smallpox. In addition to the smallpox vaccination program, the department continues to work on post-event vaccination planning to be prepared in the event a case of smallpox does appear.



Smallpox vaccine



Health Services for Adults and Seniors

SENIOR ADULT CLINIC SERVICES

Senior adult clinic services provide personal consultation with a public health nurse at 17 different locations throughout the Franklin County community each month. The nurse specializes in health care needs of persons age 60 and over. During each visit the nurse conducts health assessments and/or screenings, provides health education and resources, as well as referrals to community healthcare providers. Pneumonia immunizations are available throughout the year at each satellite location. Influenza immunization clinics were scheduled at 21 community sites during October and November.

A total of 2,262 seniors were seen at the senior adult clinics during 2003.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL IMMUNIZATION SERVICES

Travel immunizations are available by appointment to persons who are planning travel beyond North America and Europe. Diseases such as tetanus, diphtheria, polio, measles, typhoid, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, yellow fever, malaria, influenza, HIV and traveler's diarrhea pose threats to the unprotected traveler. Services provided by our nursing staff include:

- ☐ Immunizations for travel disease based on CDC recommendations.
- ☐ Education to avoid discomfort and disease.
- ☐ Documentation of immunizations.
- ☐ Helpful answers to your questions.

The Franklin County Board of Health's website is now more interactive. Check out us out on the internet at: www.co.franklin.oh.us/board_of_health

Did You Know?

During 2003, our staff provided 546 travel vaccines to 316 different clients.

ADULT IMMUNIZATIONS

The Franklin County Board of Health provides immunizations for adults following the recommendations set forth by the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices. Immunizations for adults include: tetanus-diphtheria, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, flu, pneumonia, and are all administered at our monthly immunization clinics which are held at 11 different locations each month. Additional vaccines such as meningococcal and pre-exposure rabies are also available. Flu and pneumonia vaccines are also available each fall at many locations throughout the county.

A total of 1,077 adults received immunizations during 2003.



Health Services for Infants and Children

CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATIONS

Immunization is the single most important way parents can protect their children from serious diseases. The Franklin County Board of Health follows the recommendations set forth by the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices. Immunizations for infants and children are given at specific ages and include hepatitis B, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, H. influenza type b (also known as Hib), pneumococcal conjugate, polio, chickenpox, measles, mumps, and rubella. Vaccine preventable diseases such as hepatitis A and B, measles and rubella continue to affect adolescents and young adults. In order to protect them from these serious vaccine preventable diseases, adolescents age 11 and 12 years should be evaluated and receive the recommended immunizations. The Franklin County Board of Health provides immunizations at 11 locations in the Franklin County community. All clinics are walk-in. There is a \$10 charge for each immunization. Medicaid cards are accepted, and there is no charge if you are unable to pay.



A total of 7,320 childhood immunizations were given in 2003.

OTHER CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION ACTIVITIES

The Franklin County Board of Health partners with the Ohio Department of Health, and Project L.O.V.E. (the Franklin County Immunization Coalition) to increase immunization coverage through peer-education and immunization resources for parents and providers. Low immunization coverage has been cited as the most significant cause of vaccine preventable disease outbreaks.

Our medical director and nursing staff have participated in media events to promote immunizations and also participate on committees to promote utilization of the Ohio Immunization Registry by private and public health care providers.

ROTARY CLUB OF WESTERVILLE SUNRISE COMMUNITY PROJECT

The Rotary Club of Westerville Sunrise partnered with the Franklin County Board of Health to sponsor the City of Westerville monthly immunization clinic. With the Rotary's financial support, the clinic has been promoted through various fliers and posters as well as through the medical providers in Westerville who were all given a packet of promotional materials including business cards and magnets. Attendance at various city events also has increased the visibility of the clinic and plans are underway in 2004 to promote the clinic in other ways and to provide more information about immunizations to the citizens of Westerville.





BUREAU FOR CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL HANDICAPS (BCMh)

The Franklin County Board of Health contracts with the Ohio Department of Health's Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps Program to assist Franklin County families of children with special health care needs. The program provides linkage and coordination of services; medical services; and equipment and supplies to those families that meet financial and other program eligibility requirements. Staff consultations include listening to the parent's and/or child's concerns, helping with the child's changing needs, providing screening and assessment, and making referrals to other community resources and organizations.



Franklin County Board of Health –
Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps

Our BCMH nurses made a total of 2,801 home visits, consultations and contacts during 2003.

CHILDHOOD ASTHMA INITIATIVE

Our public health nurses work with children with asthma, and their families to promote conditions in which the child can achieve the healthiest life possible. Interventions include: nursing assessments and referrals; education about medications and treatments; and needed changes in the environment. Our nurses continue to educate the public about the importance of asthma management through community collaborations, and partnerships with schools and health care providers.

BE POISON SMART! PARTNERSHIP

Our nursing staff is trained and committed to bringing the "Be Poison Smart!" message to parents and caregivers of young children. The nurses have incorporated "Be Poison Smart!" information during home visits and collaborate with the Central Ohio Poison Center Network to provide community prevention and education resources.

SCHOOL HEALTH

Our public health nurses provide health services to schools and adhere to the standards established by the Ohio Department of Education. Public health nursing services focus on assessment and monitoring of student health conditions, communicable disease assessment and follow-up, consultative services for health issues in schools, education and training, health screening and information about administration of medications. The Franklin County Board of Health also collaborates with area school systems to provide information and resources about OSHA requirements, health screenings and disease prevention and control.



Communicable Disease Prevention

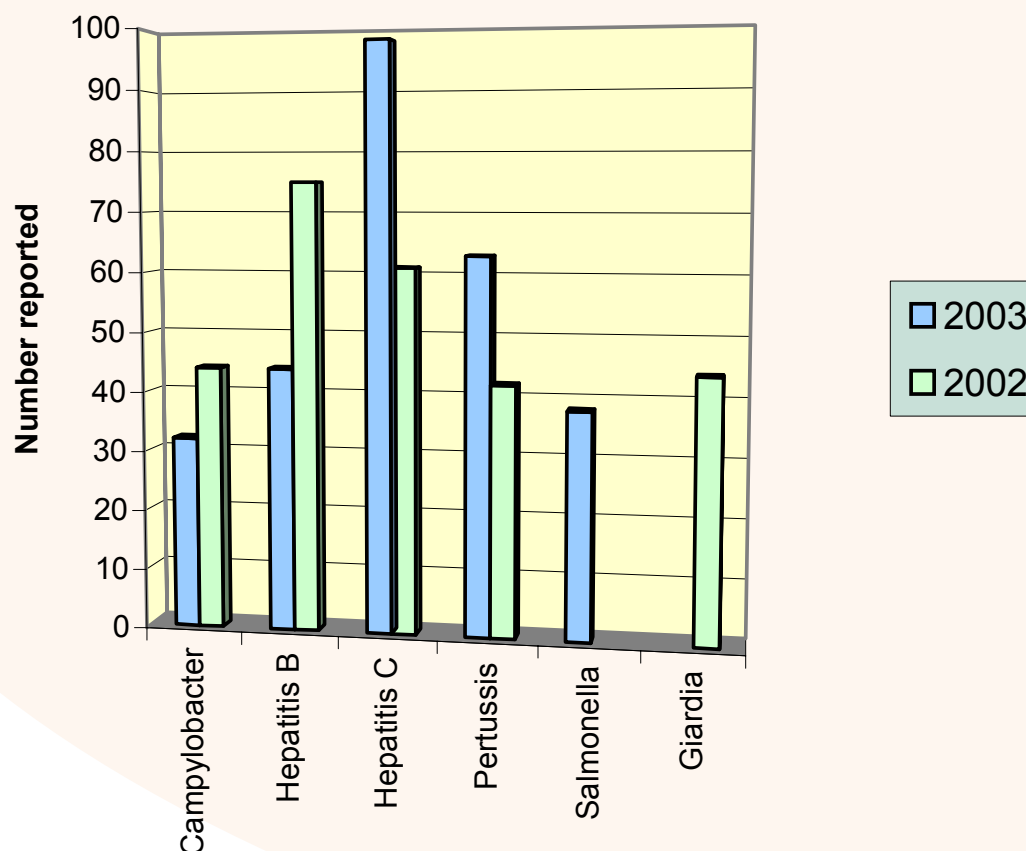
Epidemiologists and public health nurses collaborate to detect and reduce the disease burden in our community. Our staff works closely with local hospitals, laboratories, and other health care professionals to facilitate rapid reporting of communicable diseases. The Communicable Disease Reporting System (CDRS) enables direct communication between the health care community and public health staff. Through quick receipt of case reports, we are able to conduct timely investigations, thereby enabling intervention and a reduction in disease transmission.

Surveillance systems are used to further enhance disease detection and to monitor trends over time. Seasonal data including reports of influenza and West Nile Virus provide geographical information and allow us to tailor prevention strategies in areas of high risk. This information is paramount to the prevention and reduction of disease transmission.

We depend highly on the support of our health care providers to assist in our disease surveillance programs. Training and other educational opportunities provide a forum in which health care providers and public health professionals convene to brainstorm on disease prevention methods and strategies. We continue to strive to work closely with our providers and believe that uniting public health with the medical community yields a uniform public health system.

A list of the top five reportable communicable diseases (Class A only) for years 2002 and 2003 is included here. Salmonella and Giardia were the only two diseases that differed among the top 5 for the listed years.

Top 5 Leading Reportable Diseases (Class A)





Environmental Health Division

Community Environmental Health Services (CEH)

Rabies control • Housing maintenance enforcement • Housing sanitation enforcement • Mobile home park inspections and licensing
RV park inspections and licensing • Public swimming pool and spa licensing and inspections • Mosquito control • Lead paint inspections
Tattoo and body piercing establishment inspections and permitting • Nuisance complaint investigations • Rodent control
Community advisory committees • Weed complaint response • School inspections • Playground safety inspections

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN CEH

MOSQUITO CONTROL AND THE WEST NILE VIRUS

This year's program once again featured a comprehensive approach to mosquito control. The program included public education, larviciding, adult mosquito trapping, breeding site detection and elimination, neighborhood surveys, adulticiding, and complaint investigations. There was a significant public education campaign that highlighted all of the ways residents can eliminate breeding sites and control the mosquito population on their own property. Our slogan, "Take Mosquito Control Personally", illustrates the fact that mosquito-borne disease prevention begins in your own back yard by eliminating breeding sites and by using personal protection from biting/nuisance mosquitoes.

Staff increased the number of adult mosquito trapping and larviciding locations to help determine the risk of mosquito-borne disease throughout the Franklin County. During the 2003 season, mosquito fogging was only scheduled when trapped mosquitoes tested positive for West Nile Virus, or when the numbers of potential disease carrying mosquitoes were very high and met the requirements established in the department's and the Ohio Department of Health's mosquito control plans. In addition to focusing on West Nile Virus, staff continues to watch for the mosquito vector of LaCrosse Encephalitis, which is endemic in Ohio.



Mosquito Control – Year in Review

- ☐ Mosquito traps were set at 155 locations for a total of 67 nights.
- ☐ A total of 23,640 mosquitoes were trapped and tested for disease.
- ☐ 51 pools of mosquitoes tested positive for the West Nile Virus.
- ☐ 13 birds were tested for the West Nile Virus and only one tested positive.
- ☐ One human case of the West Nile Virus was identified in the jurisdiction of the Franklin County Board of Health.

INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE ENFORCEMENT

The International Property Maintenance Code Enforcement (IPMC) program is a comprehensive property maintenance code regulating all aspects of existing building conditions, such as plumbing systems, sanitation, heating and ventilation, structural systems, exterior conditions, and electrical. The enforcement of the IPMC provides communities a legal remedy to maintain the quality of existing housing stock if property owners do not take the responsibility voluntarily.

The Franklin County Board of Health currently provides the IPMC program to the City of Hilliard and in 2003 investigated 35 housing units. This program is available to all jurisdictions.

RABIES CONTROL

Beyond the quarantine of dogs and cats involved in biting incidents and checking for up-to-date rabies tags and certificates, our department strives to prevent the spread of rabies in many other ways. Staff works with local animal control officers on stray and feral cat control and management, especially in the area of cat colony maintenance. Rabies control activity is intensified when a human is bitten or encounters a wild animal, such as a bat, skunk or raccoon. The goal is to test these animals for rabies, and to advise the victim on health risks. Our department maintains a database of all current rabies tag certificates issued for animals in Franklin County and is also able to help identify an owner and address of a lost animal by using the tag number.

Rabies Control – Statistics

- ❑ A total of 425 animal bites were reported and investigated in 2003:
339 dogs • 75 cats • 4 bats • 2 guinea pigs • 2 raccoons • 2 squirrels • 1 rabbit.
- ❑ One bat tested positive for rabies in 2003. There were no human cases of rabies in 2003.



LEAD PAINT POISONING PREVENTION

Our Certified Lead Risk Assessors inspect housing units for lead paint under a contract with the Columbus Housing Partnership. Staff also performs lead paint clearance inspections for Section 8 Housing units. In addition, our Certified Lead Risk Assessors team up with our public health nurses to test children with elevated lead blood levels and to determine and eliminate the lead source in their homes. Referrals are received from the Ohio Department of Health and private physicians.

The Franklin County Board of Health also has a HEPA vacuum available to loan to residents who are doing rehabilitation work. Cleaning kits that include buckets, cleaner, sponges and a video with guidance on how to properly clean lead hazards are also available to area residents.

2003 Annual Report





Water and Wastewater Services

Permits for new wells and individual sewage treatment and disposal systems • Sewage complaint investigations • Site evaluations
Annual inspection of aerators and semi-public systems • Experimental sewage system program • Variance administration
Septage haulers permits and inspections • Sludge disposal • Real Estate transfer inspections • Subdivision/lot split evaluations
Water Hauler permits • Septic tank and well abandonment

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES

NEW SEWAGE SYSTEM AND WELL PERMITS

The Water and Wastewater Section is responsible for the sanitary treatment and disposal of sewage from all household and small commercial sewage systems in a manner that will protect surface and groundwater from contamination and human health.

In 2003:

- ☐ 117 new sewage system permits were issued.
- ☐ 35 sewage system repair permits were issued.
- ☐ 182 new well permits were issued.
- ☐ 17 well alteration permits were issued.
- ☐ 2 "experimental" sewage systems were installed.



SEWAGE COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS

- ☐ Staff investigated 157 sewage-related complaints.
- ☐ 141 (90%) of the complaints have been resolved with 9 complaints pending for legal action.

FRANKLIN COUNTY PHASE II STORM WATER DISCHARGE PERMIT

This was the first year of implementation of the Franklin County Phase II Storm Water Permit. The Franklin County Board of Health has taken the responsibility to detect and eliminate illicit discharges from storm sewers and to conduct public education.

Staff has developed a preliminary sewage system inventory with approximately 14,000 systems by using the Franklin County Auditor's data and the GIS skills of the Franklin County Development Department. By using GIS, this inventory can be compared to storm sewer outfalls and subsurface drainage tiles to assist our department in finding and eliminating illicit discharges from storm sewer systems.

WATERSHED PROTECTION PLANNING EFFORTS – 2003

Individual sewage systems and their current or potential affect on watershed health remains one of the most critical environmental issues in Franklin County. Staff have assisted two watershed groups, Friends of the Lower Olentangy (FLOW) and Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries (FACT) with data on the numbers of sewage systems in their planning area. This data is being used for their inventory and action plans. Staff also assisted the Ohio EPA in their efforts to establish the maximum level of septic pollution that can be accepted by our major watersheds in Franklin County.

ANNUAL INSPECTION OF AERATION SYSTEMS AND SEMI-PUBLIC SYSTEMS

Approximately 3,900 household aerators and 400 semi-public sewage systems were inspected in 2003. The failure rate for aerators was 15% on the first inspection and 14% for semi-public systems. Voluntary compliance is usually achieved with approximately 5 homeowners out of 3,900 prosecuted through the court system each year.

THE CENTRAL SCIOTO 208 PLAN

As a designated management agency for individual sewage treatment and disposal systems as part of the Central Scioto 208 plan, our department is responsible for writing and implementing a plan to protect watershed health for the next 20 years from septic system pollution. Staff is working with homeowners who have failed sewage systems convert to sanitary sewers. In areas where sewers are not (and never will be) available, existing systems will be upgraded to meet current water quality standards.

New sanitary sewers were installed in San Margherita in 2003, as the first of 13 Water Quality Partnership projects approved by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners. Residents will be tapping into that new sanitary sewer in early 2004, thereby eliminating water pollution from septic systems. In 2004 and 2005, approximately 1,000 septic systems will be converted to sanitary sewers as a part of this Board of Commissioners project.

Food Protection Services

Food Service licenses • Food Establishment licenses • Mobile and Temporary Food Services licenses
Vending machine licenses • Consumer food safety • Certifications of Food Service Operators
Food borne outbreak investigations • Food recalls

The food protection program was approved by the Ohio Department of Health as a result of a survey conducted in 2003. There were no major foodborne outbreaks from food handling in any of our licensed facilities during 2003.





Solid and Hazardous Waste Services and Infectious Waste Services

Solid waste landfill licensing and inspections • Infectious Waste Facility Inspectors • Transfer and recycling stations inspections
Construction and demolition waste landfill licensing and inspection • Composting facility inspections • Solid waste hauler permitting
Littering and illegal Dumping enforcement • Member of North Area Strike Team (NAS-T) to respond to chemical spills

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE

THE ANTI-DUMPING PROJECT

The Franklin County Anti-Dumping Project is a national award-winning program funded by the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio and administered by the Franklin County Board of Health. The program focuses on the enforcement of environmental crimes including littering, illegal dumping and water pollution violations. Project partners include the City of Columbus Refuse Collection Division, the Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. 2003 marked the 11-year anniversary of the program.

Anti-Dumping Project Statistics – 2003

- ❑ A total of 2,107 complaints were received by the program: 738 from Nail-A-Dumper hotline/ 133 from Nail-A-Dumper website/1,236 from direct referral.
- ❑ 48 defendants were convicted of a total of 51 criminal offenses.
- ❑ \$36,147 in fines and court costs were imposed on defendants.
- ❑ \$7,925 in restitution was ordered to the Franklin County General Health Fund.
- ❑ \$12,800 in restitution was ordered to victims or other environmental funds.
- ❑ 693 days of jail time were ordered served.
- ❑ 4,043 days of jail time suspended by the judge for probation.
- ❑ A total of 74 years and 5 months of probation time was ordered served.
- ❑ 788 hours of community service was ordered served.
- ❑ 277 criminal defendants cleaned up nearly 46,200 lbs. of solid waste that had been illegally dumped in Franklin County as part of the Anti-Dumping Project community service program.



Tire Drive 2003 a Success

This was the third consecutive year for the Tire Drive, a special activity of the Anti-Dumping Project. The tire collection event was held on July 26, 2003 and a total of 2,223 tires were collected and recycled. This event not only gave residents the opportunity to take advantage of low-cost tire disposal but also provided education that tires are the perfect breeding ground for potential disease-carrying mosquitoes.

Plumbing Inspection Services

The Plumbing Services Section provides inspections of both residential and commercial plumbing systems that are covered by laws, rules and regulations set by our department and the Ohio Plumbing Code to protect public health. Staff inspects plumbing in all areas of the County except in the City of Columbus.

- ❑ 4,728 plumbing permits were issued in 2003. (3,896 residential, 832 commercial).
- ❑ 13,162 of total plumbing inspections were conducted in 2003 (10,579 residential, 2,583 commercial).



Special Environmental Health Projects

WATER QUALITY PARTNERSHIP AND SEWAGE SYSTEM UPGRADES

The Franklin County Board of Health is managing projects to assist homeowners to tap into the new sewers provided by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, and to upgrade failing sewage systems using HUD Community Development Block Grant funds from the Franklin County Community and Economic Development Department. In 2003, 7 failed septic systems were upgraded using these funds.

EXISTING HOUSING REHABILITATION

Through a cooperative effort with the Franklin County Community and Economic Development Department, our department is participating in a Federal Community Development Block Grant Program that provides funds for handicap accessibility modifications and urgent repairs. In 2003, our department expanded its role in the program by taking the responsibility for intake of clients to determine eligibility. We also provided technical support for writing building specifications, performed construction inspections and approvals, and managed the bidding process. This program complements our housing enforcement program because it provides funds to qualified individuals to make repairs on housing code and sewage system violations.

OUTDOOR AIR QUALITY

Staff served on an Advisory Committee facilitated by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission to recommend community measures to reduce ozone and particulate matter. It is anticipated that the Central Ohio area will be in non-attainment with federal standards for these two pollutants in 2004. The Franklin County Board of Health began discussions with Ohio University, The Ohio State University, Ohio EPA, and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission about developing an air quality authority for Central Ohio. An Air Toxics Work Group will be established in 2004 to address particulate matter air pollution. Franklin County is the only major metropolitan area in the state that does not have an independent air authority.

2003 Annual Report





RADON TEST KITS

In 2003, our department distributed 500 short-term and 150 long-term radon test kits to Franklin County homeowners thanks to a sub grant from the Wood County Health Department and funding they received from the EPA State Indoor Radon Grant Program. The only way to know if your home has high levels of radon is to test. The Franklin County Board of Health has a licensed radon tester on staff to provide consultation and assistance.



MERCURY COLLECTION - THERMOMETER EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Franklin County Board of Health and the Columbus Health Department developed a mercury collection and thermometer exchange program to serve area residents. The City of Columbus Division of Sewerage and Drainage provided 4,000 digital thermometers to be given to county residents in exchange for mercury thermometers. Collection and exchange locations were established at 14 suburban fire stations, and at the two health departments. All of the mercury that is collected is taken by Bowling Green State University for recycling.

The Franklin County Board of Health was established in 1919. We have 57 full-time employees and we have 36 vehicles in our fleet.

Did You Know?

During 2003, more than 3,460 mercury thermometers, 157 thermostats, 6 blood pressure cuffs, and 24 containers of bulk mercury were collected and recycled.

INDOOR AIR QUALITY

The primary indoor air quality concern for most Franklin County residents is mold. The department has qualified staff available to inspect mold complaints and conduct consultations.

In 2003:

- ☐ 55 mold complaints were filed.
- ☐ 30 field consultations were conducted.
- ☐ Approximately 750 phone consultations were conducted.

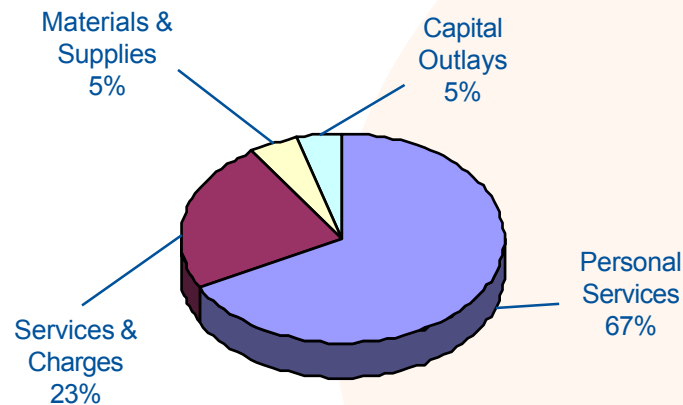
LOW COST ANIMAL VACCINATION CLINICS

In 2003, the Franklin County Board of Health along with the Columbus Academy of Veterinary Medicine sponsored five low cost animal vaccination clinics in Franklin County. A total of 135,000 pets were vaccinated against rabies.

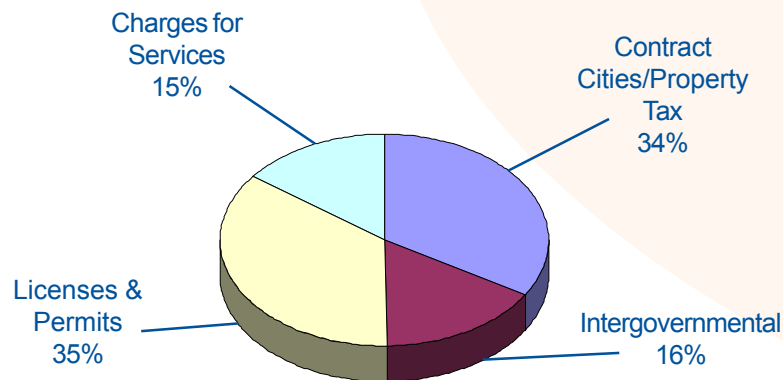
2003 Budget Summary

In 2003, the Franklin County Board of Health had an operating budget of \$5,519,288. Our revenue was \$5,088,470 and our expenditures were \$4,900,557. Being a service-based agency, the majority of our expenditures were for personnel services.

Other expenditures included materials & supplies, services and charges and capital outlays. Our revenue is collected from several sources including property taxes and contractual relationships with cities, intergovernmental charges, charges for services, and licenses and permits. Our department is audited biannually by the Auditor of State.



2003 Expenditures	In Dollars	Pct
Personal Services	3,288,536	67%
Services & Charges	1,147,575	23%
Materials & Supplies	227,453	5%
Capital Outlays	236,993	5%
Total Expenditures	4,900,557	



2003 Revenue	In Dollars	Pct
Contract Cities/Property Tax	1,712,500	34%
Intergovernmental	813,468	16%
Licenses & Permits	1,819,537	35%
Charges for Services	742,965	15%
Total Revenue	5,088,470	





Franklin County Board of Health – 2003 Annual Report
280 East Broad Street • Columbus, OH 43215
(614)462-3160 phone • (614)462-6672 fax
www.co.franklin.oh.us/board_of_health